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SUPPORT BY THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM OF THE EFFORTS OF GOVERNMENTS TO PROMOTE AND CONSOLIDATE NEW OR RESTORED DEMOCRACIES

Letter dated 31 December 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Luxembourg to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to bring to your attention the statement issued on 31 December 1997 by the Presidency of the European Union on the situation in Zambia.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 38.

(Signed) Jean-Louis WOLZFELD
Permanent Representative of
Luxembourg to the United Nations

ANNEX

[Original: English and French]

Statement issued on 31 December 1997 by the Presidency of the European Union on the situation in Zambia

The European Union is deeply concerned about the continuing state of emergency in Zambia and particularly about the arrests of Dr. Kenneth Kaunda, President of the United National Independence Party, and Mr. Dean Mung omba of the Zambian Democratic Congress.

The European Union urges the Government of Zambia to complete its investigations into all those detained under the current state of emergency and in particular the leaders of the opposition parties, Dr. Kaunda and Mr. Mung omba, with all speed and either charge or release them. The European Union urges the Government of Zambia to fully respect the human rights of all political detainees in accordance with internationally agreed standards and in particular strongly condemns the use of torture against persons under arrest as documented by the Permanent Human Rights Commission of Zambia.

The European Union strongly appeals to the Government of Zambia to continue with the process of meaningful political dialogue with all major political parties.